



## NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Here's my report back to you after a wild week in Washington, D.C. You probably heard that President Trump and his staff made [groundless claims](#) about voter fraud in New Hampshire. The President also held a revealing press conference – you can read PolitiFact's fact check [here](#).

On Capitol Hill, I participated in subcommittee hearings on workforce protections and counterterrorism strategy. The Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency, even though he doesn't support the agency's mission and denies that climate change is real. The Senate also passed a bill I opposed in the House last week, that would allow people who self-identify as seriously mentally ill to buy guns. Congressional Republicans' decision to send this bill to the President's desk is surprising, given that many of those who voted for it justified their opposition to the "no fly no buy" proposal by advocating a focus on mental health to combat gun violence.

### Insisting on the truth

Following Michael Flynn's resignation as National Security Advisor, [I called for an independent investigation](#) of President Trump and his administration's ties to Russia. The White House admitted that President Trump knew weeks ago his National Security Advisor could be vulnerable to Russian blackmail based on overwhelming evidence that Flynn illegally contacted Russian authorities on behalf of the Trump administration and then covered up his actions, yet he did nothing. This is deeply disturbing on all levels, and the American people deserve answers on who knew what, when.

This morning, my colleague on the Armed Services Committee, Congressman Walter Jones, became the first Republican to join the House Democrats' bill to launch an independent investigation of President Trump and his administration's ties to Russia. I am hopeful that other Republican colleagues will follow his leadership and join us to take action and fulfill our responsibility to the American people.

### Exposing conflicts of interest

President Trump continues his unprecedented lack of financial transparency by refusing to release his tax returns or to divest from his businesses. It's impossible for the American

people to have the information we deserve about his ties to Russia without full disclosure of his financial interests. This week, I called on the Ways and Means Committee to use its authority to secure President Trump's tax returns, and I cosponsored a bill that would force Congress to vote on whether to require the President to disclose his conflicts of interest.

### **Standing Up for Veterans**

This week the House passed the [WINGMAN Act](#), legislation I co-introduced to make it easier for certified Congressional caseworkers to assist veterans.

My office helps veterans access their earned benefits, and our experience confirms that we need to cut red tape at the VA—asking a veteran to wait around because of unnecessary bureaucratic paperwork is unacceptable. I'm glad my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for helping pass this bill to better serve our nation's veterans. This will help us better assist veterans and their families with services such as compensation and pension benefits, survivor benefits, medical treatment, life insurance, educational benefits, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits. Constituents who need assistance with these services can call my office, 603-285-4300.

I also co-introduced several other bipartisan bills to help our veterans:

- [H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act](#), would allow veterans to receive both their full military retirement pay and service-connected disability benefits, which is also known as concurrent receipt;
- [H.R. 918, the Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act](#), which would improve urgent mental health services for veterans at risk of suicide; and
- [H.R. 1001, the Veterans Federal Hiring Protection Act](#), which would exempt veterans seeking federal employment from the harmful hiring freeze imposed by President Trump.

### **Opposing "right to work"**

I'm proud that our state legislature voted down the so-called right-to-work proposal with a bipartisan vote. Advocates across our state made a forceful case for workers' right to organize and raised the alarm that the income inequality crisis has worsened alongside the national decline in union membership. At a time when workers' wages are stagnant and protections are being eroded, it's important to remember that many protections we probably take for granted, like the 40-hour work week, only became reality thanks to unions' hard-fought battles. In an Education and Workforce Committee hearing days before the vote, [I spoke](#) about why I'm committed to defending workers' right to organize.

### **Defending health care**

Now, more than ever, Members of Congress from both parties should be working together on solutions to the serious challenges we face as a nation, but instead, Speaker Ryan prioritized another attack on women's health this week. I voted "no" on a bill that would overturn a key women's health protection that currently prevents states from cutting off federal funding for Planned Parenthood and other community health providers. The protection House Republicans voted to dismantle was developed specifically to [defend](#)

[New Hampshire women and families'](#) access to care from ideological attacks, and this vote made it clear that such protection is needed now more than ever.

### **Closing thoughts**

Each week, my staff and I have meetings with engaged New Hampshire constituents visiting Washington, D.C. Here's a few of the people who came in to see us:



To see more, check out the Facebook album [here](#).

Thank you for the great honor of serving you.

Best Wishes,

*Carol Shea-Porter*

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